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Executive Registry

66-1807/a

26 APR 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert W. Komer
Special Assistant to the President for
Peaceful Reconstruction in Vietnam

SUBJECT: Expansion of Rural Development Cadre
Training Program in Vietnam

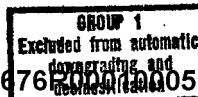
In reference to your April 21, 1966, memorandum containing proposals for expanding the Rural Development Cadre Program in Vietnam, I agree in principle that this should be done, and I assure you that CIA is prepared to bear its appropriate responsibility in this undertaking. I note that in both your memorandum and that of Ambassador Porter the point is made that resources to accomplish this desired expansion of the Program will come from other departments and agencies, even though CIA will continue as the executive agency. I strongly endorse this position, inasmuch as CIA's FY 1967 budget request now before Congress does not contain funds or personnel to accommodate such an increase. Moreover, the level of the CIA Reserve for Contingencies now anticipated for FY 1967 could not support with any safety a draw-down in the amounts needed to fund the larger Program. Should the proposal receive policy approval, the resource requirements and the methods of obtaining such resources should be the subject of early interdepartmental consultations, such as in the 303 Committee.

(signed) W. F. Raborn

W. F. Raborn
Director

cc:

Secretary of State
Secretary of Defense
Administrator, AID

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Executive Registry

66-1807/1

22 APR 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**VIA: Deputy Director for Plans****SUBJECT: Expansion of the Rural Development Cadre Program in Vietnam**

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for action as stated in paragraph five.

2. Special Assistant to the President for Peaceful Reconstruction in Vietnam, Mr. Robert W. Komer, in his letter to the Director of Central Intelligence on 21 April 1966, requested the Director's reactions to Deputy Ambassador William J. Porter's proposal for rapid increase in the number of cadre available for the Rural Development Program in Vietnam. Mr. Komer also asked for the Director's agreement in principle to Ambassador Porter's proposals as soon as possible.

3. Deputy Ambassador Porter noted in a memorandum to Mr. Komer that, substantial as it is, the present output of rural development cadre from the Vung Tau training site is insufficient in that it does not permit rapid follow-up to the growing military capability for sweeping the Viet Cong out of key areas. The expanding military capability to clear terrain is increasingly out-running our ability to insert trained cadre to hold the area and prevent reinfection by the Viet Cong. Ambassador Porter proposed to increase the current capability of training, roughly 19,000 cadre per year to 39,000 cadre per year by the end of 1966. He proposes to do this by expanding the Rural Development Cadre Program to include the development of an additional site for the construction of a second training complex. Ambassador Porter has recommended that:

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2.

a. CIA will continue to have responsibility for supervision, planning, and control of the cadre program and its expansion;

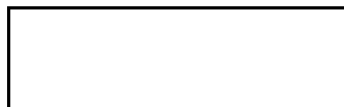
b. other Agencies will make available, as necessary and on a priority basis, to the Agency personnel and material required.

c. COMUSMACV assistance be utilized to obtain the necessary Vietnamese manpower.

4. Mr. Komer, in his letter to the Secretary of State; the Secretary of Defense; Administrator, AID; and the Director of Central Intelligence, concurs in Ambassador Porter's proposal.

5. It is recommended that the Director sign the attached memorandum to Mr. Komer.

6. Attached herewith is a survey of the proposed site for the new training center made by Saigon Station.



25X1

Chief, Far East Division

Attachment:

As stated above

cc: DDCI

CONCUR:

The recommendation contained in paragraph five is APPROVED:

(Signed) Desmond Fitzgerald
Deputy Director for Plans

23 APR 1966

Date

(signed) W. T. Rabborn
Director of Central Intelligence

26 APR 1966

Date

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